

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L A W S

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE;

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED

THE

CONSTITUTION OF THE U. STATES

AND OF SAID STATE,

IN TWO VOLUMES,

WITH AN APPENDIX.

.....
VOL. I.
.....

Published according to a resolve of the State, passed
March 8, 1821.

BRUNSWICK.

Printed by J. Griffin, for the State.

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1821.

tices of the quorum, within the same County, they are hereby empowered to determine the sum to be paid, and to order such prisoner to make satisfaction by service, for such reasonable time, not exceeding two years, as they may assign, for which time the keeper may thereupon dispose of such prisoner in service to any citizen of the United States: And if he or she cannot be so disposed of, after being confined three months, for costs, or fine and costs only, the Justices of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, within and for the same County, may, at their discretion, order such prisoner to be discharged upon such security as they may judge proper.

SEC. 19. *Be it further enacted*, That when any person, charged with the crime of larceny, or as an accessory therein, or as a receiver of money, goods or other articles stolen as aforesaid, shall and may be let to bail, the recognisance for the appearance of such person, shall be taken, with sufficient surety, or sureties, in such sum as may be reasonably required for that purpose; with a further additional sum which shall be double the amount or value of the money, goods or articles charged to have been stolen or obtained by such larceny; and when such recognisance shall be forfeited by default, the Justices of the Court before whom judgment may be rendered thereon, shall order the amount or value of the money, goods, or other articles stolen or obtained as aforesaid, to be paid out of the sum which shall be collected on such recognisance, to the owner of such money, goods or other articles, provided he shall have been the prosecutor.

Persons charged with larceny, &c. to recognise in a sum double the value of the goods—besides the sum required to secure their appearance:

[Approved March 19, 1821.]

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CHAPTER VIII.

An Act against Blasphemy, and profane Cursing and Swearing.

SEC. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Legislature assembled*, That if any person shall wilfully blaspheme the holy name of God, by denying, cursing, or contumeliously reproaching God, his creation, government, or final judging of the world, or by cursing, or re-

Crime of blasphemy described.

proaching Jesus Christ, or the Holy Ghost, or by cursing or contumeliously reproaching the holy word of God, that is, the canonical scriptures, contained in the Books of the Old and New Testaments, or by exposing them, or any part of them, to contempt and ridicule; which books are as follows: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Samuel, Kings, Kings, Chronicles, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philipians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, Peter, Peter, John, John, John, Jude, Revelations; every person so offending, shall be punished by solitary imprisonment for a term not

Punishment of blasphemy

exceeding three months, and confinement to hard labour, for a term not exceeding five years. And whereas the horrible practice of profane cursing and swearing is inconsistent with the dignity and rational cultivation of the human mind, with a due reverence of the Supreme Being and his Providence, and hath a natural tendency to weaken the solemnity and obligation of oaths, lawfully taken in the administration of justice; to promote falsehood, perjury, blasphemy, and dissoluteness of manners, and to loosen the bonds of civil society:

Punishment of profane cursing and swearing.

SEC. 2. *Be it therefore enacted*, That if any person, who has arrived at the age of discretion shall profanely curse or swear, and shall be thereof convicted, such person, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding two dollars, nor less than one dollar, according to the aggravation of the offence and the quality and circumstances of the offender, in the judgment of the Court, or Justice of the Peace before whom the conviction may be; and in case the same person shall, after one conviction as aforesaid, offend a second time, such offender shall forfeit and pay, upon such second conviction, double the sum forfeited on the first conviction; and in case the same person shall, after two convictions, as aforesaid, again offend, such offender shall forfeit and pay, upon each and every subsequent conviction, treble the sum for-

Double penalty on second conviction.

Treble penalty on third conviction.

feited on the first conviction, one moiety, of the forfeitures aforesaid, to be to the use of the town, in which the offence shall be committed, and the other moiety thereof to the use of the person or persons, who shall make complaint thereof, or prosecute for the same: and provided also such prosecution be commenced within twenty days after the offence be committed.

Limitation of prosecution.

[Approved February 24, 1821.]

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CHAPTER IX.

An Act providing for the due observation of the Lord's day.

Whereas the observance of the Lord's day is highly promotive of the welfare of a community, by affording necessary seasons for relaxation from labour and the cares of business; for moral reflections and conversation on the duties of life, and the frequent errors of human conduct; for public and private worship of the Maker, Governor and Judge of the world; and for those acts of charity which support and adorn a Christian Society: And whereas some thoughtless and irreligious persons, inattentive to the duties and benefits of the Lord's day, profane the same, by unnecessarily pursuing their worldly business and recreations on that day, to their own great damage, as members of a Christian Society: to the great disturbance of well disposed persons, and to the great injury of the community, by producing dissipation of manners and immoralities of life.

Preamble.

SEC. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Legislature assembled,* That no traveller, drover, waggoner, teamster, or any of their servants, shall travel on the Lord's day, or any part thereof, (except from necessity or charity) under a penalty not less than four dollars nor more than six dollars and sixty six cents; which penalty may be recovered with costs of prosecution, upon complaint before any Justice of the Peace in the County where the offence may be committed; one moiety thereof to the complainant and the other moiety to the use of the County within which the offence may be committed; or before the Circuit Court of Common Pleas of the same County by presentment of the Grand Jury, in which case the whole penalty shall enure to the benefit of the County: *Provided however,* That all prosecutions for said penalty shall be commenced within six months after the offence was committed, unless the offender resides without the State.

Travelling, teaming, &c. on Lord's day prohibited.

Penalty, how recovered and applied.

Limitation of prosecution.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That no person or persons whatsoever shall keep open his, her, or their shop, ware-

Business and amusements unlawful.